

# PM RAIDER CONNECTION

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Welcome to the Arts Issue!

*The arts—music, theater, literature, painting, photography, sculpting and so forth—touch all walks of life in the Patchogue-Medford School District. In recognition of this fact, we thought we would use our winter 2023-2024 newsletter to demonstrate how so many disciplines can be filtered through the lens of the arts—including STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), career and technical education, literacy and diversity. We'll also demonstrate how the arts allow our educators to align their work with our Superintendent's goals.*

### SUPERINTENDENT'S GOAL #V

## INSPIRE CONFIDENCE AND SELF-REFLECTION IN ALL STUDENTS & STAFF IN ORDER TO DEVELOP ACADEMIC AND CIVIC READINESS

#### Our High School Musical

- Production staff has increased to replicate all the roles and responsibilities of a true musical production at the high school, which allows for more opportunities for students.
- Positions supported by musicals include Producer, Director, Vocal Director, Choreographer, Music Director, Stage Manager, Asst. Stage Manager/Tech. Crew.
- Cast has increased from 19 students to 33 students.
- Stage crew has grown from 21 to over 60 students.
- Cosmetology students will be assisting with hair and makeup for all four musicals.
- Construction trade students have been invited to assist with set design.
- Media and Photography club is assisting the producers and student producers with advertising materials.

#### Our Middle School Musicals

- Production staff has increased to include a full-time Stage Manager, Director, Asst. Director, and Vocal Director.
- Cosmetology students from the high school will be assisting with hair and makeup at the middle school they attended.
- All four production teams are working together to create an inventory of costumes, props, and reusable set pieces. These items will be stored in the high school auditorium and Saxton basement.

**Para obtener una versión de este boletín en español, visite el sitio web del Distrito.**



High school pit orchestra and the cast of *The Prom* in a joint rehearsal. *The Prom* premieres at the high school on February 8.



Construction trade students work on the set for last year's production of *Spamalat*.



Auditions for the district's first-ever Spanish theater production, coming this April.

## From the Desk of Dr. Jones: A Message from the Superintendent



Thank you for reading our special arts issue! Herein you'll find incredible information regarding the arts program in the Patchogue-Medford School District, including a list of performances and art shows upcoming this spring (see pages seven and eight). Be sure to scan QR codes when you see them to view additional photos—and even some recorded video—of our amazingly talented students in action.

In my welcome message last fall, I mentioned that I am committed to providing a warm, welcoming and nurturing environment where all students will achieve their full potential. I truly believe that the arts represents a wonderful resource with which I can realize this goal. The full range of arts-related programs available in our schools—theater, music, sculpting, graphic design, creative writing and more—offer an opportunity for each and every student to shine, regardless of what they may be interested in. So many of our core curriculum and social-emotional health objectives can be achieved through the arts as well. STEM programs, literacy, history and so forth—all are engaged in the course of an arts lesson. It is for this reason that we place such an emphasis on the arts here in Patchogue-Medford, and that focus has in turn allowed our students to thrive. For evidence of that, look no further than the pages of this newsletter. Thank you for reading!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Donna Jones, Superintendent

## A Message from the Board of Education

When you picture an arts program in public schools, what do you see? Chances are you see an orchestra giving a concert, a student working on a painting with a teacher, or a group of committed thespians staging one of the classic plays we've all come to know and love over the years. While this would certainly be an accurate depiction of the arts here in the Patchogue-Medford School District, it would not tell the whole story. For the arts are so much more than what you see on stage or on the canvas—they are a holistic, team-based pursuit that involves every facet of school life in order to succeed.

A theatrical performance, for example, requires contributions from our cosmetology students; from engineers, tech and carpentry students; and from those studying marketing, graphic design and communication. It often requires an understanding of American history, cultural literacy, and psychology. And theater, like so many arts, requires intense discipline, teamwork and commitment. These are all touchstones of what we try to instill in our students, and they are all exercised during an average play. You can see why we place such an emphasis on the arts. With so many incredible performances happening over the fall and winter of the school year, we decided to dedicate our winter issue to the arts, and how it intertwines with everything we do. Hope you enjoy!

Sincerely,  
The Patchogue-Medford School District Board of Education

# 3RD ANNUAL WINTER DISTRICT ART SHOW

The Winter District Art show was created to give our art students another opportunity to display their work on a larger scale. The show takes place at both Saxton and the high school, and artwork is on display during the secondary winter concerts, bringing both art and music together. What is unique about our show in particular is that it features a collection of artwork from all of our schools—K through 12. We also hold a Spring District Art show that takes place in March and brings the entire art faculty together for one evening to celebrate our students. Please enjoy some examples of our talented students' wonderful works!



Adalyn Schmich, Grade 3  
Canaan Elementary

Emma Fielitz, Grade 4  
Medford Elementary



## SUPERINTENDENT'S GOAL #IV

# CONTINUE TO INCREASE CULTURAL COMPETENCIES DISTRICTWIDE IN ORDER TO BETTER REACH THE NEEDS OF ALL CHILDREN

### High School's Latest Performance Teaches Tolerance

*The Prom*—a recent musical set in a modern high school that deals with themes of tolerance, acceptance, inclusivity for LGBTQ+ students and the importance of diverse opinions—is a particularly pertinent and timely choice for today's students.

The show centers around a high school girl in Indiana who has been banned from bringing her girlfriend to the school prom. A group of egotistical Broadway actors looking for positive PR visit the town to help the girl and promote tolerance, but quickly find that their aggressive approach causes more harm than good. The show has only recently become available for licensing, but has already been produced several times on Long Island by both regional theaters and high schools. Each of these productions met with critical acclaim and community support.

In selecting the most appropriate musical for any given school year, the production staff at Patchogue-Medford High School takes a number of factors into consideration. The teaching value of the material, the appropriate synergy between casting and instrumentation requirements and the students projected to participate, and the social-emotional impact of the material on the students are all important facets of the decision-making process.

By producing *The Prom*, the district will be well-positioned to continue its work as a leader in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

*As the twinkling lights adorned the stage and the melodies of the season danced through the air, there was another spectacle to behold—a kaleidoscope of creativity woven through the K-12 art displayed at the 3rd annual districtwide student art show during the holiday concerts. The carefully curated primary pieces each narrated a different story. The halls echoed with whispers of awe as parents, teachers, and concert-goers alike marveled at the mosaic of colors and ideas that adorned the display boards. Please enjoy images of these works placed throughout this newsletter.*

Brynn Hoffman, Grade 1  
Tremont Elementary



Nina Clark, Grade 12  
High School



Danny Encalada Sapatanga  
Grade 5, Medford Elementary

Nadeene Lojano Espinoza  
Grade 5, Medford Elementary

Nicholas Moschera  
Grade 5, Medford Elementary



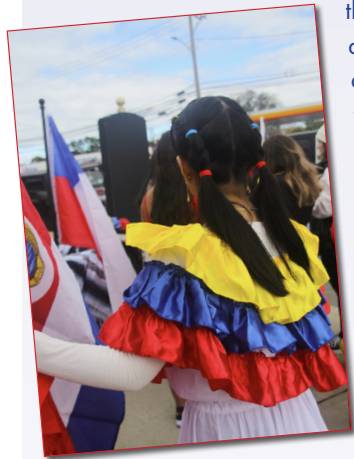
Avery Mattimore, Grade 2  
Bay Elementary

## SUPERINTENDENT'S GOAL #IV

# HOW THE CREATIVE ARTS FOSTER DIVERSITY IN THE PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

In the public-school setting, the arts are the foundation on which a near limitless number of lessons are built. The arts can be a vital tool in teaching teamwork, confidence, creativity, ingenuity, critical thinking and so much more. They are also a wonderful means to teach our students the importance of diversity and cultural understanding, as our arts instructors expose students to music, literature, theater and so forth from cultures all over the world.

There are few cultures in the world that can rival Hispanic Americans for artistic diversity and beauty. In the Tri-State Area, a region of the country with a rich and important Hispanic-American tradition, it's essential that our arts educators emphasize their artistic contributions. In the fall, Hispanic Heritage Club members and their families participated in the Hispanic Heritage Parade of Patchogue. They showed their cultural pride by waving the flags of the Spanish-speaking countries, dancing to traditional music, and marching while wearing traditional dresses, ponchos, and sombreros with the goal of preserving the traditional elements of their heritage.



## Patchogue-Medford to Hold District's First-Ever Spanish-Language Play!

One thing that is usually a given when you see a play in a Long Island school is that the play will be performed in English. While there is obviously nothing wrong with that—as the list of inventive, important and powerful English-language plays is endless—it would be a special treat for a native speaker of a different language to see a show in their mother tongue, which is what makes this news so exciting.

In the new year, Patchogue-Medford School District launched its Spanish Theater Company, an after-school theater arts program for Spanish-speaking students of the district. Under the direction of Margarita Espada, founder and executive-artistic director of the theater company, Teatro Yerbabruja, as well as Cristina Molina-Duarte, and Olga Villacis-Mora from PMHS, the Spanish Theater Company of Patchogue-Medford will perform the District's first-ever Spanish-language play in the spring. **This very special performance will take place on April 5.** Keep in touch with the District for updates about this exciting effort to further include families in our school community activities!

# THE ARTS AND CTE PROGRAMS ARE A PERFECT MATCH

Career and Technical Education, or CTE, allows students to personalize their educational experiences based on their interests, their skills, and their individualized learning needs. In this way, the arts represent an incredible opportunity to develop CTE-based curricula because there are just so many disciplines being exercised during the development of a music, arts or theatrical production. No matter what a student's interests and needs are, they'll find what they are looking for through the arts.

Watch our CTE  
Promotional Video!



## Construction Trades

Students in the Construction Trades CTE program assist in the construction of the set design being used for the high school musical. In the 2022-2023 school year, students from the Construction Trades CTE program worked in collaboration with the musical staff to create the set used for *Spamalot*.

## Cosmetology

- Students enrolled in the cosmetology program will have the opportunity to gain practical cosmetology hours which they can apply towards their New York State licensing requirement.
- Cosmetology students possibly assisting with middle school productions hair and make-up.
- Cosmetology students will support the theatrical events when the shows are being presented to the community.
- Cosmetology students contributed to our homecoming celebration Raider Bowl offering students extensions, braiding, and face painting.

## Fashion Design and Merchandising

- Students support in apparel or accessories needed for the play/musical



Cosmetology students in our brand-new cosmetology spaces, preparing for Raider Bowl.



Pictured left to right: High School Principal Dr. Randy E. Rusielewicz, Board Trustee Bernadette Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Lori Cannetti, Board Trustee Kelli Anne Jennings, Assistant Superintendent of Business Frank Mazzie, and Director of CTE Ray Ruiz at our ribbon cutting for our new CTE center.



CTE Fashion Design and Merchandising students constructing apparel and accessories.

This year, the Patchogue Medford School District introduced its eighth CTE Pathway at the high school, offering our students an opportunity to pursue a career in the cosmetology industry. Since 2019, our CTE programs have grown with the support of our community and districtwide staff. All of the programs housed in Patchogue Medford High School give students a space to explore a specific career field that has a focus on a targeted industry.

These CTE pathways allow students to explore industries such as healthcare, appearance enhancement, information technology, education, law enforcement, business, construction, and fashion. We are excited to provide these CTE programs that give our students the chance to set a post-secondary goal that caters to their needs after they graduate. Our programs all have articulation agreements with colleges and offer students college credits while enrolled in the CTE program at a reduced tuition cost. They also offer students industry-recognized certifications and licenses that can be used for immediate employment. If a student enlisted in serving our country, they can use these skills in our military services around the world.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S GOAL #IV

# CONTINUE TO INCREASE CULTURAL COMPETENCIES DISTRICTWIDE IN ORDER TO BETTER REACH THE NEEDS OF ALL CHILDREN

### Home Language Arts

Home Language Arts classes visit our CTE programs to receive information on courses available at Patchogue-Medford High School. CTE Tours were organized by our Teaching Assistant Laura Aldana and HLA teachers Ms. Molina-Duarte and Ms. Villacis-Mora to inform our ENL students about CTE program opportunities.

Home Language Arts (HLA) is instruction in the student's home language in addition to the instruction they are receiving in English. This course is for our students enrolled in the Transitional Bilingual Program. Throughout the course teachers assist students in enhancing their Spanish skills in listening, reading, writing, and speaking.



## PATCHOGUE VILLAGE HISPANIC HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY

**33 seniors from Patchogue-Medford High School were recognized for their academic achievement of earning a 95 or higher overall average and were awarded with certificates by the Hispanic Advisory Board of the Town of Brookhaven at the 10th Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. See the full list below.**



Liana Adames  
Isana Alicea  
Julissa Alonzo  
Areston Huerta Anticona  
Jordan Arevalo Avila  
Julian Avila-Reyes  
Maria Barrera  
Carlos Barzallo  
Edison Aguilar Buestan  
Alexandra Campitiello

Allison Severino Castro  
Aimee Carbajal  
Sebastian Crespo  
Sophia DiPrima  
Nicole Fox  
Nathalia Fuentes  
Jennifer Garzon  
Lara Granja  
Jennifer Lopez  
Alexandre Lawrence  
Artemo Lozano Isaza  
Alyssa Maravilla

Matteo Martinez  
Kyle Montalvo  
Jennifer Quistian  
Yasmal Rojo  
Tatiana Romero  
Elizabeth Anne Ryan  
Isabella Salducco  
Daniel Sheridan  
Jefferson Sorto  
Karina Tiniganay  
Jaylin Weinberg

# UPCOMING ART SHOWS AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES AT THE PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

## "Night Of" and POPS concerts

Date	Event	Location	Time
Thursday, February 29, 2024	Vocal Night	PMHS	7:00pm
Tuesday, March 5, 2024	High School Pops	PMHS	7:00pm
Thursday, March 7, 2024	String Night	PMHS	7:00pm
Wednesday, March 13, 2024	Jazz Night	PMHS	7:00pm
Thursday, March 14, 2024	High School Pops	PMHS	7:00pm

## Spring Concerts

Date	Event	Location	Time
Wednesday, May 1, 2024	High School #1 Spring Concert	PMHS	7:00pm
Thursday, May 2, 2024	S. Ocean 6 Spring Concert	Saxton	7:00pm
Tuesday, May 7, 2024	S. Ocean 7/8 Spring Concert	PMHS	7:00pm
Tuesday, May 7, 2024	Saxton 6 Spring Concert	Saxton	7:00pm
Wednesday, May 8, 2024	Oregon 6 Spring Concert	PMHS	7:00pm
Wednesday, May 8, 2024	Saxton 7/8 Spring Concert	Saxton	7:00pm
Thursday, May 9, 2024	Oregon 7/8 Spring Concert	PMHS	7:00pm
Friday, May 10, 2024	Medford Spring Concert	Saxton	7:00pm
Friday, May 10, 2024	Canaan Spring Concert	PMHS	7:00pm
Tuesday, May 14, 2024	Tremont Spring Concert	Saxton	7:00pm
Thursday, May 16, 2024	High School #2 Spring Concert	PMHS	7:00pm
Friday, May 17, 2024	River Spring Concert	River	7:00pm
Friday, May 17, 2024	Barton Spring Concert	Saxton	7:00pm
Monday, May 20, 2024	Bay Spring Concert	Bay	7:00pm
Monday, May 20, 2024	Eagle Spring Concert	PMHS	7:00pm

## Districtwide Art Show

Date	Event	Location	Time
Tuesday, March 26, 2024	Spring Districtwide Art Show: K-12	PMHS	6:00pm



Aleah Klagges  
Grade 11, High School



Martin Lopez Campoverde  
Grade 10, High School



Abbey Gunnerson  
Grade 8, Oregon



Vanessa Vazquez  
Grade 7, Oregon

**Patchogue-Medford Schools**

241 South Ocean Avenue  
Patchogue, New York 11772  
www.pmschools.org

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### Building Art Shows

Date	Event	Location	Time
Thursday, May 16, 2024	Barton Art Show	Barton	6:00pm
Thursday, May 16, 2024	High School Art Show	PMHS	5:00pm
Friday, May 17, 2024	River Art Show	River	6:00pm
Monday, May 20, 2024	Bay Art Show	Bay	6:00pm
Tuesday, May 21, 2024	S. Ocean Art Show	S. Ocean	6:00pm
Tuesday, May 21, 2024	Eagle Art Show	Eagle	6:00pm
Tuesday, May 21, 2024	Medford Art Show	Medford	6:00pm
Tuesday, May 21, 2024	Tremont Art Show	Tremont	6:00pm
Tuesday, May 21, 2024	Saxton Art Show	Saxton	6:00pm
Wednesday, May 22, 2024	Canaan Art Show	Canaan	6:00pm
Tuesday, April 16, 2024	Oregon Art Show	Oregon	6:00pm

### Secondary Musicals

Date	Event	Location	Time
Thursday, February 8, 2024	PMHS Musical	PMHS	7:00pm
Friday, February 9, 2024	PMHS Musical	PMHS	7:00pm
Saturday, February 10, 2024	PMHS Musical	PMHS	7:00pm
Thursday, March 21, 2024	Oregon Musical	Oregon	7:00pm
Friday, March 22, 2024	Oregon Musical	Oregon	7:00pm
Friday, March 22, 2024	South Ocean Musical	S. Ocean	7:00pm
Saturday, March 23, 2024	South Ocean Musical	S. Ocean	12:00pm
Saturday, March 23, 2024	Oregon Musical	Oregon	7:00pm
Saturday, March 23, 2024	South Ocean Musical	S. Ocean	7:00pm
Thursday, April 11, 2024	Saxton Musical	Saxton	7:00pm
Friday, April 12, 2024	Saxton Musical	Saxton	7:00pm
Saturday, April 13, 2024	Saxton Musical	Saxton	7:00pm



Pictured: Our secondary ensembles performing in their winter concerts. Concerts for our District take place at both the high school and Saxton in the auditorium.